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ABSTRACT

An increase or decrease in student enrollments has a direct effect on the operating funds provided by the state to community colleges in Florida. For the last 3 years, St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) was assigned and funded for a student full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of 8,527, including 4,976 Advanced and Professional (associate in arts), 3,056 Postsecondary Vocational (associate in science), 216 Vocational Supplemental, and 279 College Preparatory FTEs. The actual enrollment in 1987-88 was 8,543.6 or 0.2% above the assigned figure, while in 1988-89 the actual FTE enrollment was 9,096.6 or 6.7% greater than the assigned number. Student enrollment was projected to exceed the assigned number by 14% to 15% in 1989-90, which would entitle SPJC to receive an adjustment in funding and to be assigned a higher enrollment figure. In fall 1989, 18,019 students were enrolled at SPJC in degree credit programs. They had the following demographic and academic characteristics: (1) about 60% of the students were female, and 67.76% of the total headcount enrollment attended part time; (2) students in associate in arts programs increased, from 61.8% in 1987 to 65.7% in 1989, while the percentage enrolled in associate in science and certificate programs decreased from 19.9% to 17.7%. (JMC)

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

St. Petersburg Junior College

THE POWER OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT

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THE POWER OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT

By enrolling in a specific college students voice their opinions about the curriculum delivered by the faculty and the direction of the institution set by the president and approved by the Board of Trustees. Student enrollment is the lifeblood of the college. An increase or decrease in student enrollment has a direct effect on the operating funds provided by the State. These are the monies used to employ faculty and staff, purchase equipment and supplies, operate facilities, and provide services to students. Students, then, as purchasers of services, wield pivotal power in the future of a college.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND STATE FUNDS

Student enrollment so impacts the finances available to the college, it is apropos that we examine how enrollment and finances are related. The apportionment from state funds is stipulated in statute (s. 240.359(3) F. S.). Briefly stated, based upon a college's prior three year's enrollment, an enrollment assignment is made for the current fiscal year. The assigned number directly determines the funds received. If the actual enrollment is from zero to five percent less than the assigned enrollment ("95% corridor"), the college receives the full funds associated with the assigned number. If the actual enrollment is more than five percent below the assigned number, the allocation to the college is reduced proportionately to the difference between five percent and the actual percentage reduction in enrollment. But, if the average of the current year's actual enrollment and the two prior year's actual enrollment is five percent greater than the current year's assigned number, a new and higher enrollment assignment value will be made for the next fiscal year. This "workload adjustment," as it is called, becomes part of the new college base. The concept is similar to that of income averaging allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) until a few years ago. This funding policy causes a "drift up" that trails actual enrollment increases but also creates a "drift down" that softens cuts when enrollments decline. Current proposals to the Legislature are designed to quicken the response time with respect to enrollment changes. Always important because it affects the base, a workload issue is especially significant during stringent fiscal times as it may be the only issue presented to the Legislature that is funded. The section below describes the enrollment pattern at SPJC.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT ST. PETERSBURG JUNIOR COLLEGE

For the last three years, St. Petersburg Junior College has been assigned and funded for a student FTE (full-time equivalent) of 8527.0. This number is apportioned as follows: Advanced and Professional (AA degree students), 4,976.0; Postsecondary Vocational (AS degree students), 3,056.0; Vocational Supplemental, 216.0; and College Preparatory, 279.0. The 1987-88 actual enrollment was 8543.6 FTE—0.2 percent above the assigned number. The actual FTE enrollment for 1988-89 was 9096.6 —6.7 percent greater than the assigned number. The 1989-90 summer session enrollment was 15.6 percent higher than the previous year's summer semester.

The college is currently projecting that student enrollment will exceed the assigned number by 14 to 15 percent. An average of the FTEs for the last two years plus the current year enrollment, if expectations are realized, should result in a number that exceeds the assigned enrollment. A five percent or greater increase in the three year average will entitle the college to receive an adjustment in funding and to be assigned a higher enrollment figure. Table 1 shows the college's assigned number, the actual enrollment, and the three year cumulative average. SPJC is projecting an average increase of between

seven and eight percent over the three year period. But it is the number of students in each course type and the cost factor associated with that program course that determines the college's actual workload adjustment in dollars. For example, in 1989-90 the cost factors were Advanced and Professional, $2,358; Postsecondary Vocational, $3,687; Vocational Supplemental $2,500; and College Preparatory, $2,155. Thus, an increase in enrollment in A.S. degree programs would net the college more workload dollars than an increase in enrollment in A.A. degree programs. (However, it is important to note that after the initial year's workload funding, students enrolled in A.S. and A.A. degree programs are funded at the same level.)

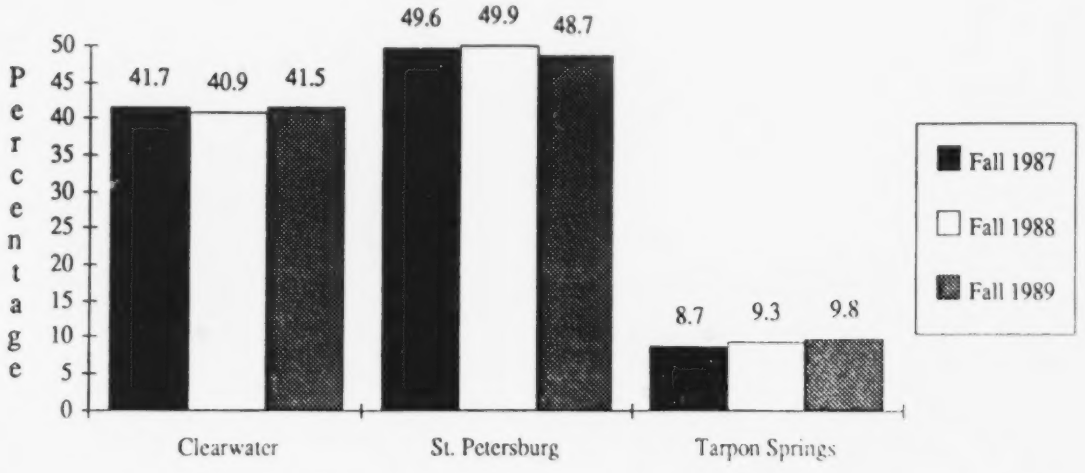
TABLE 1
SPJC FTE ENROLLMENT 1987 - 88 THROUGH 1989 - 90

YEAR	ASSIGNED ENROLLMENT	ACTUAL ENROLLMENT	%DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASSIGNED & ACTUAL	3YEAR AVER%
1987-88	8527.0	8543.6	+0.2	—
1988-89	8527.0	9096.6	+6.7	—
1989-90	8527.0	9784.2(est.)	+14.7	+7.2
1990-91	9141.5	——	——	

SOME DEMOGRAPHIC FACTS ABOUT FALL SEMESTER STUDENTS

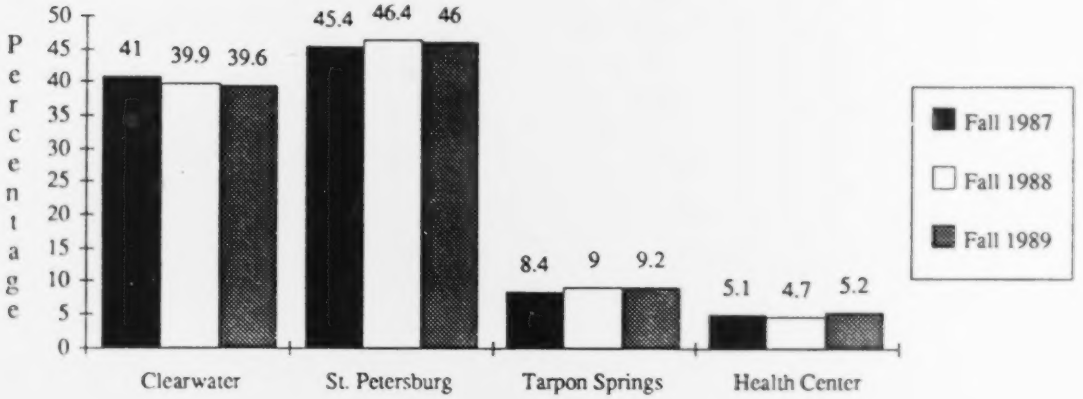
The graphs depicted on the following pages describe the student population (headcount) enrolled in degree credit programs at the college by the FTE date during Fall semester for the last three years. Graph 1 depicts the distribution of student headcount enrollment by home campus/center for Fall 1987 through Fall 1989. The total number of students enrolled in Fall 1989 was 18,019. The St. Petersburg campus accounted for 48.7 percent of the enrollment; Clearwater, 41.5 percent; and Tarpon Springs, 9.8 percent. Tarpon Springs has experienced an increase in enrollment for the last three years.

GRAPH 1
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT AT HOME CAMPUS
Three Year Trend



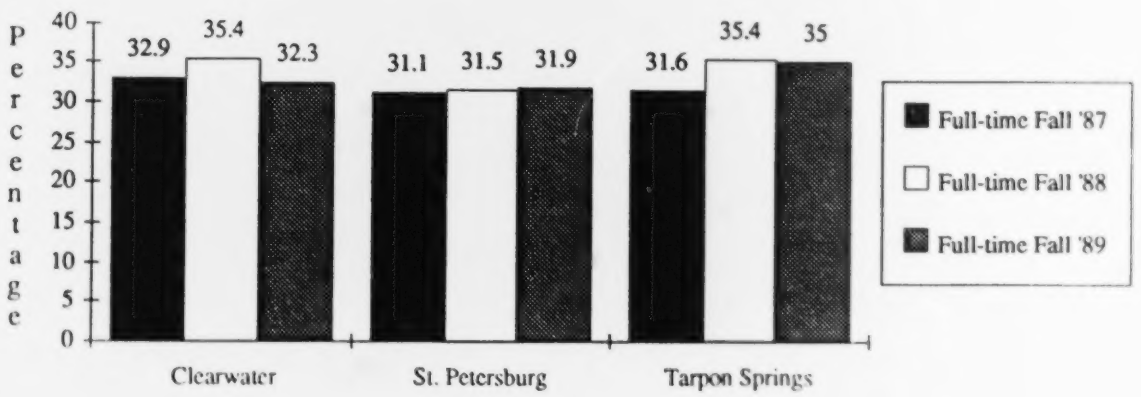
Students matriculated in health related programs have a home campus designation other than the Health Center. A review of the Fall 1989 headcount enrollment showed that 5.2 percent of the students were enrolled in health related programs and took classes at the Health Center. A comparison of Graphs 1 and 2 shows 2.7 percent of students enrolled in health related programs in Fall 1989 considered St. Petersburg their home campus; 1.9 percent, Clearwater; and 0.5 percent Tarpon Springs.

GRAPH 2
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY SITE
Three Year Trend



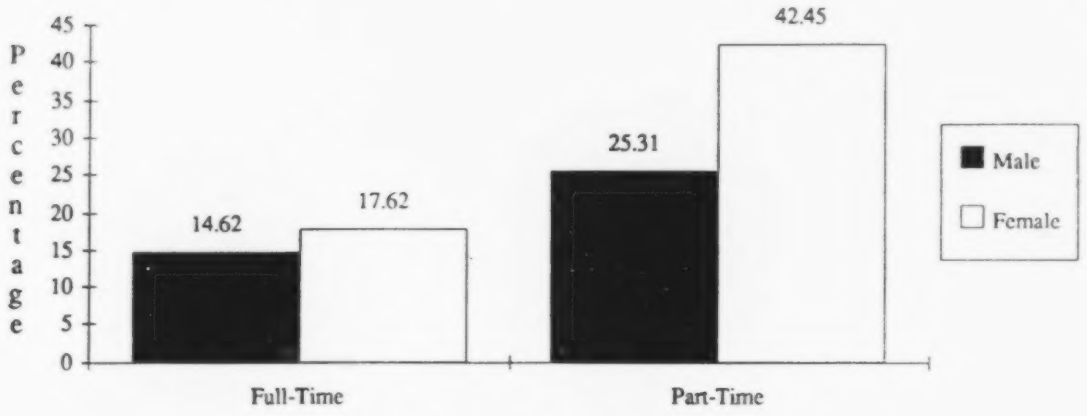
Graph 3 depicts enrollment figures for full-time students by home campus. Full-time is defined based on 12 or more hours. The number of part-time students exceeded the number of full time students for all years on all campuses. In Fall 1989, the Tarpon Springs campus had the greatest percentage of full-time students; St. Petersburg had the greatest percentage of part-time students.

GRAPH 3
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY HOME CAMPUS
FULL TIME
Three Year Trend



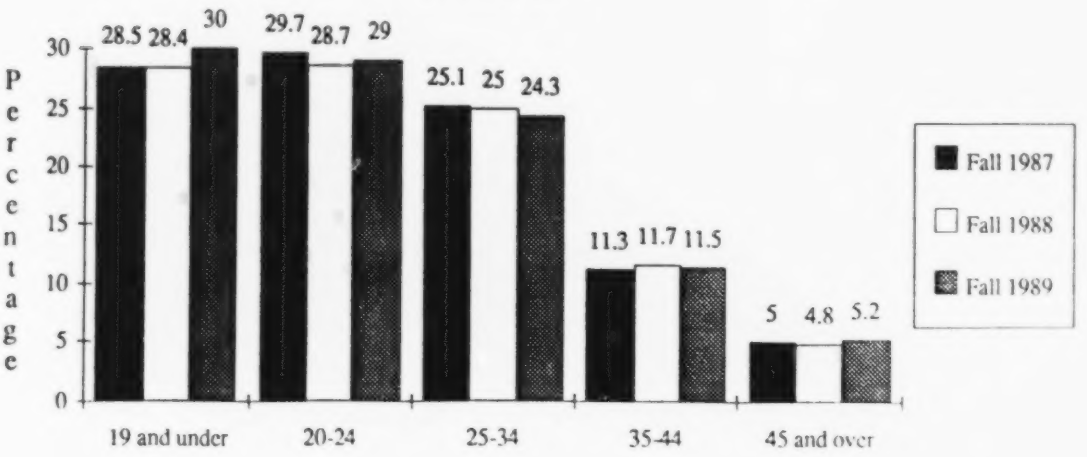
Graph 4 displays the college-wide percentage of full-time and part-time student headcount enrollment by gender for Fall 1989. The number of female students exceeded the number of male students and the number of part-time students exceeded the number of full time students. This is also true for each campus. College-wide, about 60 percent of the student enrollment is female; 40 percent is male.

GRAPH 4
FULL & PART TIME HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY GENDER
Fall 1989



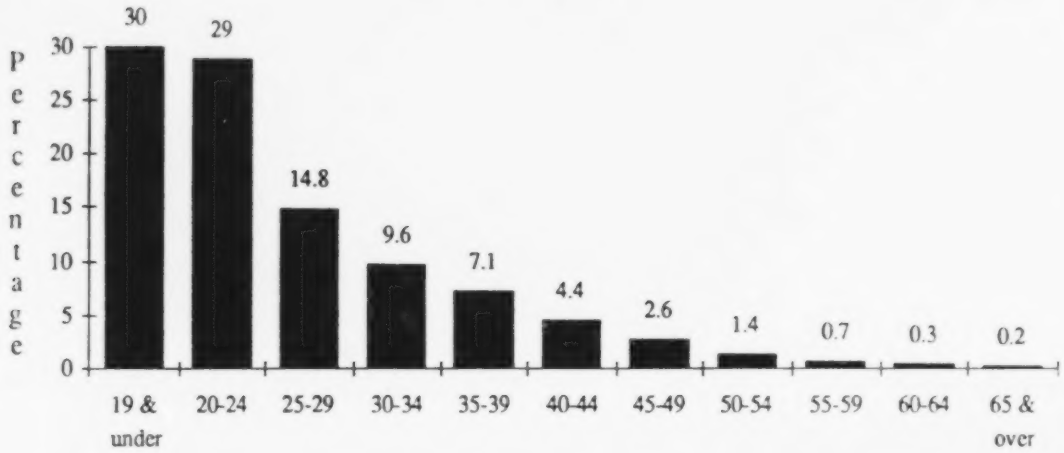
Graph 5 displays the percentage of students by age for Fall 1987 through Fall 1989. The trend shows that more than half of our student population is 24 years of age or younger. The percentage of students in the remaining age brackets declined as the age increased.

GRAPH 5
HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE
Three Year Trend



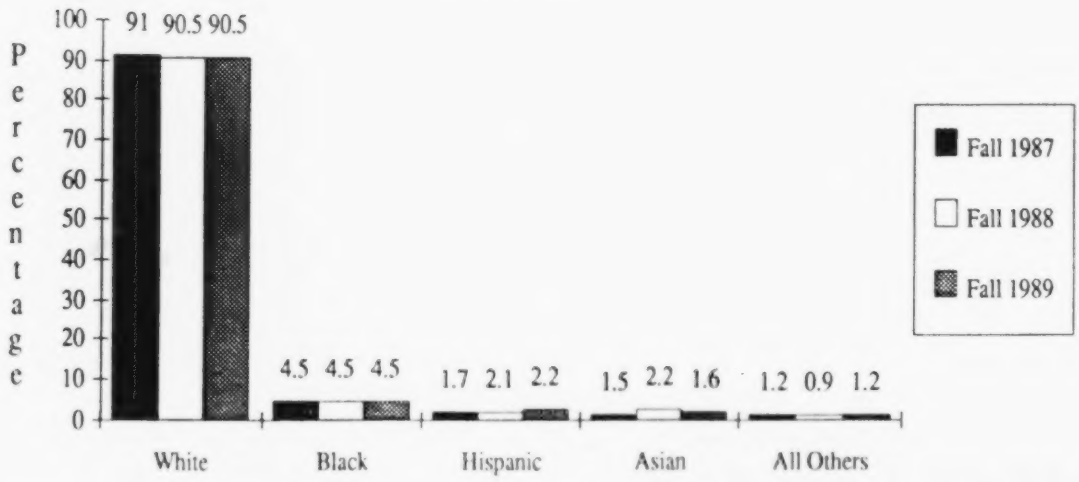
Graph 6 further classifies the age of students enrolled in Fall 1989. The majority (59%) were in the traditional age brackets (24 years or less) for college students. Less than 17% of the population was 35 years or more.

GRAPH 6
HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE
Fall 1989



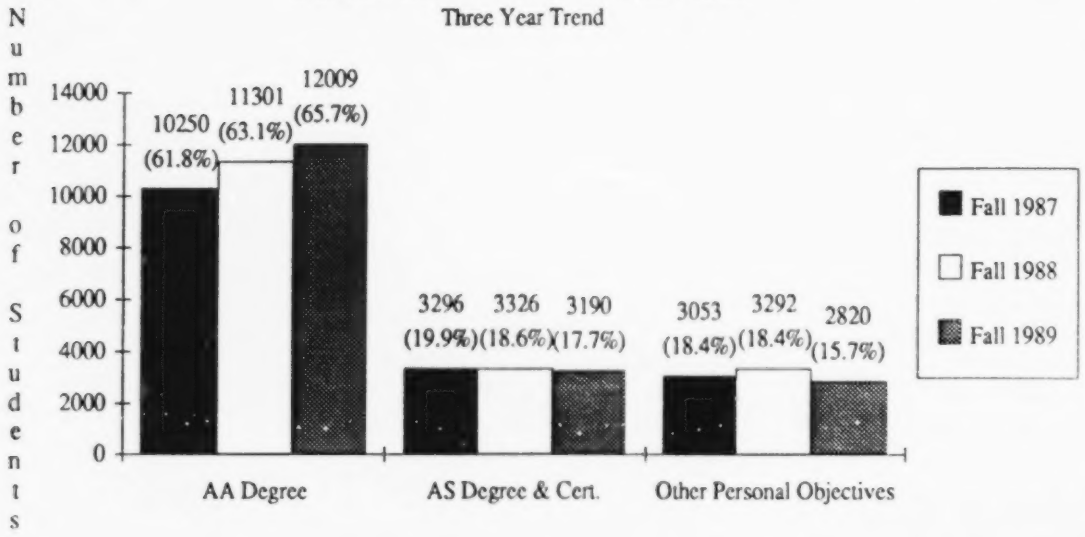
Graph 7 displays the enrollment by ethnic distribution. The percentage of black and white students has remained stable over the three year period while the percentage of Hispanic students, although a relatively small percentage of the overall population, has experienced a slight increase.

GRAPH 7
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION
Three Year Trend



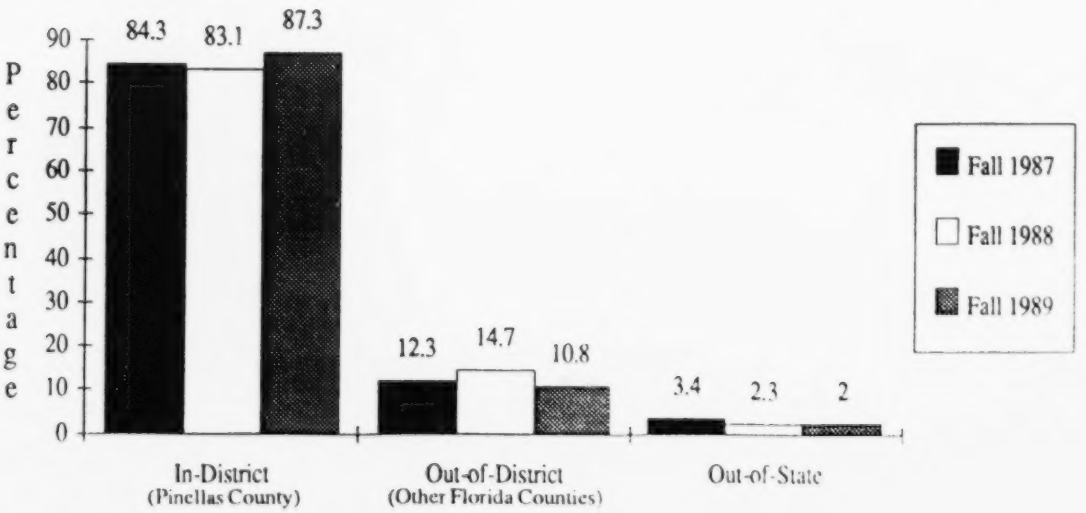
The percentage of students enrolled in the major program categories is displayed in Graph 8. The majority of students are matriculated in the college transfer program, a category that has steadily increased each year.

GRAPH 8
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM
Three Year Trend



Graph 9 displays the demographic origin of students. As expected the majority of students attending the college live in Pinellas County; however, in Fall 1989 approximately 12.8 percent of the student population was comprised of students from other Florida counties and/or other states.

GRAPH 9
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC ORIGIN
Three Year Trend



In conclusion, these graphs show that the average SPJC student in Fall 1989 was matriculated in an A. A. degree program. She was from Pinellas County, white and 19 years old or younger.

QUESTIONS

1. Given the generally higher costs of the vocational programs, is there an appropriate alternative to the state policy where, after an initial year of differentiated funding, the state provides identical amounts for vocational programs and college transfer programs?

2. Given the college enrollment growth, what factors are behind the trend toward increases in AA degree program enrollments while AS degree program enrollments remain stable?

3. Should adjustments be made in student services to accommodate the increasingly greater numbers of part-time students?

4. The majority of students enrolled in degree programs are of traditional college age. Is the college meeting the needs of the older returning students and/or persons seeking an occupational change? Should there be more emphasis on the older student as the population ages.

Please direct questions or comments about this Educational Abstract or suggestions for future issues to Dr. Susanne Fischer, Director of Institutional Research, Institutional & Program Planning.

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES

AUG 17 1990